



Written Testimony Submitted by
Chancellor David G. Carter
Connecticut State University System
Before the Education Committee
Monday, February 23, 2009

Due to previous commitments, I am unable to appear before you today, but I wanted to submit comments for your consideration on **Senate Bill 945, *An Act Concerning World Language Requirements***.

Beginning with the class of students graduating in 2013, this bill would require that students take a minimum of 22 credits, and that, of this amount, two must be in world languages. Numerous national studies underscore that the most important factor ensuring that students are academically successful in college is the quality and intensity of the high school curriculum. Satisfactory completion of an array of rigorous high school courses taken in an appropriate sequence is by far the most determining factor for admission, persistence and completion of a college degree. The Connecticut State University System has already embarked in an effort to emphasize appropriate requirements for admission at its universities as part of its effort to reduce the necessity for remedial and developmental course work at the university and to have greater expectations of high school graduates. Among those is a requirement for a minimum of two years of world language; three years will be recommended. There is no longer any doubt that our reliance on a global economy means that there is an undeniable need for college graduates to have an understanding of at least one other culture and language in order to be successful in almost any vocation.

While we support the continuous efforts to align learning goals for students in high school with what is expected for success in college and agree that mastery in a world language must begin at the earliest levels of a child's education, there is nonetheless a need to establish an expectation that the study of a world language prior to completion of a high school education is a part of the core competencies expected of our graduates. Therefore, we support the bill establishing such expectations.

Your consideration of this testimony is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact Jill E. Ferraiolo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Government Relations/Communications, should you require any additional information or have any questions regarding these matters.

